

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A washing method comprising:

a nonaqueous washing process of washing an object to be washed using a nonaqueous solution;

an intermediate washing process of washing the object to be washed using a solution having solubility relative to both an aqueous solution and the nonaqueous solution after said nonaqueous washing process; and

an aqueous washing process of washing the object to be washed with the aqueous solution after said intermediate washing process.

2. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a drying process of drying the object to be washed between said nonaqueous washing process and said intermediate washing process.

3. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the drying process is performed by using a vapor of the solution having solubility relative to both an aqueous solution and the nonaqueous solution.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The washing method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a drying process of drying the object to be washed between said intermediate washing process and said aqueous washing process.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The washing method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the drying process is performed by using a vapor of the solution having solubility relative to both an aqueous solution and the nonaqueous solution.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The washing method as claimed claim 1, wherein ~~the solution having solubility relative to both an aqueous solution and the nonaqueous solution in the intermediate washing process~~ a nonaqueous solution used in the nonaqueous washing process is a hydrocarbon solution.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The washing method as claimed claim 6 1, wherein the ~~hydrocarbon~~ solution having solubility relative to both an aqueous solution and the nonaqueous solution in the intermediate washing process is alcohol.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The washing method as claimed in 7, wherein the ~~hydrocarbon~~ solution used in the intermediate washing process is isopropyl alcohol.

9. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the hydrocarbon solution is ketone.

10. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the hydrocarbon solution is acetone.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The washing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ultrasonic vibration is applied during the washing performed in said nonaqueous washing process.

12. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ultrasonic vibration is applied during the washing performed in said intermediate washing process.

13. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ultrasonic vibration is applied during the washing performed in said aqueous washing process.

14. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The washing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the object to be washed are optical components.

15. (Withdrawn) A washing method comprising:
a nonaqueous washing process of washing an object to be washed using a nonaqueous solution;

an intermediate washing and drying process of simultaneously washing and drying the object to be washed using a solution having solubility relative to both an aqueous solution and the nonaqueous solution after said nonaqueous washing process; and

an aqueous washing process of washing the object to be washed with the aqueous solution after said intermediate washing process.

16. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the intermediate washing and drying process is performed by using a vapor of the solution having solubility relative to both an aqueous solution and the nonaqueous solution.

17. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed claim 15, wherein the solution having solubility relative to both an aqueous solution and the nonaqueous solution in the intermediate washing process is a hydrocarbon solution.

18. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the object to be washed are optical components.